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DEATH OF MISS E. BROWN.

"The news of the death of Miss ELIZABETH BROWN on the evening of Sunday, March 5th, came as a very great shock to her numerous friends. For several years past Miss BROWN has been a leading figure in amateur astronomy, and to her special department — the drawing and description of solar spots and faculæ — she devoted a large part of the last years of her life. She contributed her first paper to the Liverpool Astronomical Society on the 'Proper Motion of Sun-spots' on 1883, December 17, and was asked to become Director of the Solar Section of that society very shortly after its inception. After the dissolution of the Liverpool society she was very anxious that an astronomical association on similar but wider and firmer lines should be formed, and when the British Astronomical Association, in 1890, filled this want she became Director of its Solar Section, and an ardent worker, not only in her own but in several other of the sections, notably those for the observation of the Moon, of colored and of variable stars. She was a frequent attendant at the meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society. She was a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and one of her observatories at Cirencester was devoted to meteorological instruments, where she continued the observations of her father, the late Mr. THOS. C. BROWN.

"Though by no means robust, she went on three long and arduous eclipse expeditions — to Russia, to Trinidad, and to Lapland. On only one of the three was she favored by a clear sky; but the fruitless expedition to Russia in 1887 and the fruitful one to Trinidad in 1889 were commemorated by two beautifully and vividly written narratives,—'In Pursuit of a Shadow,' and 'Caught in the Tropics.' She was even now making preparations to go on a fourth eclipse expedition, to Spain or Africa. Those of her friends who are looking forward to the same expedition will no doubt feel that it has lost much of its pleasure by her absence." A. S. D. M.

THE OBSERVATORY, April, 1899.

[To the above note we may add that Miss BROWN's interest was not limited to the astronomical work in her own country. She was a life member of our own society, joining in September, 1890. We should also add that it is stated in *Science* that, in her will, Miss BROWN has left one of her observatories and all its contents (probably the one containing the apparatus for solar observations) and £1,000 to the British Astronomical Association.]

SOME RECENT ASTRONOMICAL PUBLICATIONS.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY, NO. 14. Catalogue of 2030 Stars for the Epoch 1895. By JERMAIN G. PORTER, A. M., Ph. D., Director. Cincinnati, 1898.

The catalogue contains the results of five years' work (1893–98) with the Cincinnati meridian-circle. The working-list was made up primarily of known proper-motion stars, and the proper motions derived from a least-squares adjustment of all available material are given in the catalogue.

DIE VENUS-DURCHGÄNGE, 1874 UND 1882. Bericht über die Deutschen Beobachtungen, ... herausgegeben von A. AUWERS . . . . Erster Band. Berlin, 1898.

With the publication of this volume the work of the German Transit of Venus Commission is closed. Volumes II to VI, previously published, contain full details of the observations made in 1874 and in 1882, and the complete discussion of the results obtained. The present volume gives the history of the enterprise and the documentary record of the proceedings of the Commission.

In an appendix it also gives an account of some observations of the great comet of 1882, made by two of the parties during the ocean voyage to the observing stations, and some plates which reproduce the drawings of the comet made by Herr SCHWAB.

ASTRONOMICAL PAPERS, PREPARED FOR THE USE OF THE AMERICAN EPHEMERIS AND NAUTICAL ALMANAC. Vol. VIII, Part II. Catalogue of Fundamental Stars for 1875 and 1900; Reduced to an Absolute System. Prepared by and under the direction of SIMON NEWCOMB. Washington, 1898.

In his introduction, Professor NEWCOMB states that this catalogue was first undertaken in 1895, in consequence of a widely expressed desire by official and private astronomers in the United States for an improvement in the star-list of the American Ephemeris. At the Paris Conference of 1896, Professor NEWCOMB was requested to complete the work in a form suitable for international use in astronomical ephemerides generally. This